



A CJR Success Story

Last year, 16-year-old Michael was referred to the Connecticut Junior Republic's new Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) substance abuse treatment program with an opioid drug addiction. Intensive family therapy, group and individual counseling and case monitoring have helped him overcome crippling drug use that led to problems in school, incidents of theft and arrest, and other serious issues fueled by his addiction. Due to substance abuse issues involving his parents, CJR recommended an alternative living arrangement with a relative. This has worked well, and with CJR's encouragement, Michael's relative became his legal guardian. His journey to recovery in the MDFT Program has been a long one, but Michael is doing very well. His teachers and family are happy that he has regained his appealing personality and sense of humor. He is employed at a local restaurant and is trying out for the varsity basketball team.

Thanks to the assistance he has received through CJR's MDFT substance abuse treatment program, Michael can look forward to a drug-free future. He is on track to graduate from high school, enjoys constructive activities, such as working out and repairing family cars, and appreciates the positive relationships he has with his older siblings. Michael has been attending recovery support meetings twice a month and has not had any relapses since beginning the program. The CJR staff continues to check in regularly to be sure there are no issues.

For the first time in many years, Michael celebrated a happy and drug-free holiday season. He recently took a college tour with CJR staff and is considering a variety of career paths. Michael made the honor roll in the last marking period at school and plans to apply for a CJR scholarship to assist with college this autumn.

Michael is thankful to be free of his addiction. With his newfound freedom from substance abuse, Michael is building a strong foundation for his future.